



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Wisconsin



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities in five key areas across the landscape. These key points are designed to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. Estimated Fire Plan allocations to Wisconsin include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & Private Land Fire Assist..	
988	11	0	360	17	620	150	0	0	2,126

* Includes \$1,082,000 for Research and Development activities in Wisconsin in support of the National Fire Plan.

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- Preparedness Organization - Increase resources within the 20-state **Eastern Region** to 125 engines, 17 dozers, 525 preparedness positions and one interagency hotshot crew. The Chequamegon-Nicolet achieved full MEL preparedness staffing; fielding 4 dozers, 12 fire engines and a shared helicopter.
- Workforce Development - Add 274 new hires within the 20-state **Eastern Region** (includes seasonal, temporary, and conversions to permanent). Four new permanent firefighters were hired on the Chequamegon-Nicolet; three additional fire personnel projected to be hired this fiscal year.
- Fire Facilities - Invest region-wide in communication facilities and facilities planning and support, at a total cost of approximately \$2 million. This includes investing \$11,000 in a state-of-the-art weather station on the Chequamegon-Nicolet and substantial facilities planning for fiscal years 2002 and 2003.
- Federal Excess Personal Property - Build on estimated \$2 million inventory value of equipment and material loaned to state fire organizations and their cooperators in Wisconsin.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- No fuel reduction treatment acreage has yet been recorded in the National Database as of July 27,

2001.

- More than 2,360 acres of fuel reduction projects are planned.
- 1,644 total acres have been treated to date.
- Forest Health Management activities help to prevent and control invasive species
- \$332,000 supports research to explore how land management and land use changes affect the impact of fire on communities across the landscape. Results will strengthen a model to determine how changing conditions (e.g., human settlements, disease, forest growth) interact to affect fire ignition rates, fire spread, and fire intensity. (RWU-4153, Rhinelander, WI)

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- Approximately \$290,000 in State Fire Assistance will increase organizational and preparedness skills to assist with firefighting efforts, and \$330,000 supports Hazard Mitigation activities. Grants will be used for training and education, fuel reduction, hazard mitigation and equipment, and developing Firewise communities. An additional \$363,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$150,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance supports training and equipment to meet needs of a portion of the 239 rural volunteer fire departments in Wisconsin. An additional \$113,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$985,000 in National Fire Plan Community Assistance will support activities across the 20 northeastern states. Included are:
 - Economic Action Programs to develop and expand markets for wood products from removed fuels;
 - Community and Private Land Assistance to enhance fire planning in communities, enhance stewardship planning and fund fuel management.

The Forest Products Laboratory, Madison Wisconsin

Overview

The National Fire Plan provides over \$2 million to the Forest Products Laboratory, in Madison, WI, to provide technical and financial assistance for the development and expansion of markets for traditionally underutilized wood products, and to expand the utilization of wood removed during hazardous fuel management activities. The longer-term goal is to foster sustainable community development, linking community assistance and resource management.

Technical Assistance

\$500,000 is targeted to provide technical assistance involving use of hazardous fuel removals, including characterizing the resource, identifying potential markets, resolving technical processing problems, and developing business plans. Examples of activities underway include:

- Economics and engineering feasibility studies in Salmon, ID and Gloriaville, NM for small-scale wood combustion operations to produce heat and electricity
- Pre-feasibility study for timber bridge construction from forest removals near Santa Fe, NM
- Opportunities for growing mushrooms for profit on low-valued hardwoods in Moyers, WV
- Lumber improvement assessments at several mills (Enterprise and Unity, OR) using removals from thinnings

Information Clearinghouse

\$300,000 is focused to disseminate information on uses of hazardous fuel removals, through workshops, databases, and newsletters. Examples of activities underway include:

- Workshops on small-scale wood combustion in Vermont
- SmallWood 2002 Conference on value-added uses of removals in Albuquerque, NM
- Fence post brochure for replacement fencing program in Montana and Idaho
- Compendium of community success stories on using removals from fuel reduction projects

Appropriate Technologies

\$500,000 is directed to develop appropriate scale technologies that can produce value-added products, and identify economical uses of removals. Examples of activities underway include:

- Improved drying technologies for ponderosa pine (Flagstaff, AZ & Unity, OR)
- Guidelines for log sort yards (nationwide)
- Standard plans for roundwood trusses and kiosks (Missoula, MT)
- Mechanical log grading (Hayfork, CA)

Market Expansion

\$700,000 is focused on expanding the market opportunities for value-added wood products developed from removals. Examples of activities underway include:

- Expansion of small business operations using wood/plastic composites (Mountainair, NM)
- Demonstration structures made from small diameter trees at 2002 Winter Olympics (Hayfork, CA; Enterprise OR; Darby, MT; Southern Utah)
- Marketing campaign on using small diameter roundwood
- Market assessment of wood residues for erosion control mats in Blacksburg, VA

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